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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 9 August 1950

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in Austria

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1. The factory police in Austria, up to mid-1946, was an organization confined to guarding factory property. In late 1946, Capt Kuparek, then advisor of the Communist Party of Austria, suggested that a general factory police be established in all USIA enterprises. The execution of this measure lay in the hands of the managing directors and the employees' councils. Most of the factory police at that time were Communists, and this explains the fact that there developed from the old factory police a force which now has political and military importance.
2. In the course of time, the factory police was organized as a paramilitary force in the oil area, St. Poelten, Amstetten and Wiener-Neustadt. Several groups of factory police which have received military training, some even by Soviet officers and on Soviet troop training grounds, are now available.
3. However, there is no central command of the factory police as is wished by the Communists, because USIA headquarters is strictly opposed to any outside influence in its enterprises.
4. Although militant, the factory police (which approximated 16,000 to 18,000 men by the end of 1949) cannot be considered a full military force, as most factory police are insufficiently trained. The number of factory police who have received a thorough military training may be estimated at no more than 3000-4000 police in all Austria.
5. The factory police in the USIA enterprises is divided into four groups, stationed as follows:

Group 1: Zistersdorf; this group also has charge of all oil refineries and the enterprises of the Danube shipping company.

Group 2: Lower Austria

Group 3: Burgenland

Group 4: Vienna.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. Gustav Wegerer, an engineer and authorized agent of the KPOe Central Committee for factory police matters, is now conferring with Soviet directors of the USIA enterprises to discuss possibilities of centralizing the factory police. He plans the activation of from four to six groups of factory police units, organized according to age and military training. Publication of a monthly factory police periodical and centralized direction of the factory police are also planned.
7. From persons close to engineer Wegerer it was learned that several directors of USIA enterprises approve this plan, while others are opposed to a central command of the factory police. They argue that the factory police would then cease serving exclusively the interests of their enterprises.
8. Engineer Wegerer's plan calls for obligatory military training of from one to three hours daily, training which is to be paid in full by the factories.
9. The Zistersdorf factory police is said to have 200 rifles, 40 submachine guns, 36 heavy machine guns and 2,000 rounds of ammunition. The origin of these arms is not known.

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[REDACTED] Comment: According to an unprocessed report on the factory police, dated 10 February 1950, the personnel and equipment of the factory police had not changed since mid-December 1949; plans were under way, however, for the resumption of military training in the factories in March 1950.

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